Use of Inefficient Dredgers at Madras Port

1909. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dredgers now available with the Madras Port Authorities are not efficient enough to keep the passage of ships into the Harbour smooth;

(b) whether Government have received any representations for the purchase of modern dredgers; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) : No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Declaring Madras-Kanyakumari Coastal Road as National Highway

1910. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Tamil Nadu Government to declare Madras Kanyakumari coastal road as a National Highway; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating the length of the National Highways in Tamil Nadu which are to be converted as four lane highways and the locations of such roadways in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Tamil Nadu have forwarded certain proposals for declaration of new National Highways including the coastal road connecting Madras-Kanyakumari. Decision about declaration of new National Highways would be taken only after finalisation of the 8th Plan keeping in view the various criteria laid down for the purpose and availability of funds. However, Asian Development Bank has agreed to finance development of the stretch from Madras to Cuddalore having a length of 61 kilometres at an estimated cost of Rs. 37 crores which forms part of the above route.

Presumably, the Hon. Member is referring to four-laning to be done on existing National Highways in Tamil Nadu. Since the 8th Plan is yet to be finalised, and outlay for the purpose is not known, it is not possible to indicate at this stage the sections which will be taken up for four-laning in Tamil Nadu during the 8th Plan.

Shortage of Buses during Peak Hours

1911. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Greenline Express Bus Service introduced by the DTC recently has been reduced to half and more buses are not running in Dehli;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the commuters are suffering during peak hours to reach their destinations; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to ply more buses to reduce the congestion during peak hours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) It is not a fact that Greenline Express But Service has been reduced. Due to financial constraints DTC are not in a position to augment its fleet. Delhi Administration have finalised the scheme for grant of 3000 stage carriage permits to private operators, to meet the demands of the commuters.